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Deliverances of the General Assembly, collated from various reports of Standing Committees on Home Missions, Bills and Overtures, etc.; authorizing, reviewing and approving the work of the Woman's Board, as conducted by them with the advice and approval of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

MINUTES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1874.

(Page 80.)

The following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, That the Assembly recommend to pastors and elders the formation, in all our churches, of Woman's Mission Circles, in connection with our Home and Foreign Mission Boards; that thus all the Christian women of our Chruch may be actually interested in the great Missionary cause, to the deepending of their own piety, as well as the enlargement of our evangelistic work.

1875.

(Page 489.)

The organization of our Christian women in several of our large cities, with auxiliaries in a large number of the churches, in behalf of Foreign Missions, has infused new life into the work for the heathen, and has brought large increase to the resources of that excellent Board, without diminution of other contributions. To some extent, such societies have also helped forward the cause of Home Missions, both in money, and in sending boxes of clothing to the families of missionaries. Memorials have reached the Committee from different parts of the church asking for some more effective plan of woman's work for the evangelization of our own land. We beg leave to suggest, that the Assembly now recommend the organization of a Woman's Home Missionary Society, with auxiliary societies, under the advice and counsel of the Board of Home Missions, or its officers. And further that the formation of distinct auxiliary societies be recommended, in those churches in which one society only - embracing if possible all the ladies in the church - may seem best, the disposition of its funds be left to the determination of every such society for itself. Such recommendation, without restricting the liberty of the women of each congregation, will express the clear judgment of the Assembly, that home evangelization and the conversion of the heathen are one and the same work of the Lord.

1876. (Page 31.)

Your Committee observes with great satisfaction the growing interest of the women of our Church in the work of Home Missions. By large and increasing gifts to the families of our missionaries, by more efficient organization, and by the contribution of funds, Christian women are combining for the help of the Board. We would suggest to the Assembly to urge and press this good work upon the women of all our churches, and to recommend a thorough organization. While a single society to each church may meet the requirements of both Home and Foreign Boards, yet let the desire be plainly expressed to labor with equal zeal for both. It is the woman's work for women in either direction, and the self-sacrificing wives of Home Missionaries need the sympathy of their sisters as much as any of their sex. To aid in this direction, it is still further suggested to the synods, through the Assembly, to appoint annually a committee of women in each synod, who shall be a medium of communication between the Board and the various women's missionary organizations within its own bounds.

1877. (Page 512.)

We would urge that in every church, in its organizations for benevolent work, regard be had to the necessities of the whole world, at home no less than abroad; and that all aim to carry forward the various departments of this work, not as antagonists or even rivals, but as part of one and the same great work for Christ and souls. In this connection your Committee would emphasize the importance of every organization for benevolent work in every church being tributary to, and in harmony with the work of the session of the church; and finding its connection with the Board, not in some outside auxiliary, but in those scriptural and sufficient links which adhere in the system of the church, - the Session, the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly.

(Page 513.)

The report of the Board and also the Overtures from the Presbyteries of Utah and Colorado, present for the consideration of the Assembly a subject which, so far as the work of this Board is concerned, is entirely new, viz.: the establishment of schools as distinct from, and in advance of, the establishment of churches, and consequently the employment and commissioning of teachers as distinct from ministers of the gospel. The Report and Overtures inform us, that such schools are already in operation through the use of funds specially contributed for the purpose, and the Assembly are asked to "authorize or advise, or at least approve, this new department of labor."

In the progress of Home Mission work, an emergency has arisen, calling for a change of action on the part of the Board in the peculiar states of societies in the Territories of Utah and New Mexico, and in a limited degree in the work already carried on among the Indians.

The Home Board is the only one that does, or is likely to do, anything in either of the Territories mentioned. The work is peculiar, arising from the utter absence of anything like a true Christian population, to which the work of Home Missions can at first come.

In those Territories we must begin at the very bottom; and it is found practically necessary, in order to success, to have schools under direct conduct of the missionaries. Such schools care not for secular instruction alone, but for religious instruction in connection with direct gospel instruction. These schools should not be left uncontrolled; and it seems eminently desirable that the Board control them. We would recommend, then, that the Board be allowed to sustain such schools by the payment of the teachers needed; such teachers to be recommended by the Presbyteries in which they are, and commissioned by the Board. It is expected that the funds for such schools will be raised by ladies mainly.

1878. (Page 110.)

Your Committee would call special attention to the large body of civilized Indian tribes, in the Indian Territory between Kansas and Texas. These number over 70,000, and are near the railway, and not pagans, and need schools and preaching. We have but four men in that field; and the call for more is loud and persistent.

Your Committee recommend the Board to consider the propriety of establishing such schools as are needed, and to extend their work in that region as rapidly as men and means at their command will justify; and this Assembly also hereby recommend those churches specially interest in Home Mission work among the Mormons, New Mexicans and Indians, to send to the Board of Chruch Erection special contributions for the purpose of securing mission chapels among thesdneedy people. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx They also recommend that pastors, Presbyteries and Synods makes special effort to present to the women of our churches, by sermons or otherwise, the principles and history of these organizations; and that effort be made to secure harmony of method, either by separate organizations for the different branches of the work or by incorporating both branches in one organization. Your Committee also recommend that the Committees on Home Missions, in their respective Presbyteries and Synods, be instructed not only to promote by all means in their power, this work of the women in its Home Mission cause, but also, by some systematic method, to secure all available statistics of each work within their bounds, and forward the same to the Board of Home Missions.

1879. (Page 594.)

We call the attention of the Assembly to the fact that, according to their advice, "a Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church" has been formed, having its office and treasurer in New York."

Already this organization has borne abundant fruit; and we ask for it, on the part of the women of our Synods, Presbyteries, and churches, a hearty co-operation, and for its plans a careful trial. We may urge, in accordance with resolutions of former Assemblies, Synodical Committees of women, also Presbyterial, and the organization in every church of a missionary society to gather information and collect contributions.

We ask that the General Assembly request the Presbyteries and Synods to embody in their Annual Narratives what has been done by women for Home Missions; and that this information be embodied in the Narrative of this body.

An examination of the Report shows a new feature in the work of our Board. The Board tells us that, with the progress of the country, the rapid increase of railway construction, and the flow of the population, they have been brought face to face with "exceptional populations" in Southern Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Alaska - populations of another religion than ours, speaking a strange language. Church organizations could not be commended among such a people. It must be a work of laying foundations, of patience, a work in the homes, in the streets, and in the fields. Schools must be opened free - absolutely free - in which prayer and praise shall be heard. This work has been highly prosperous. In Utah four years ago there were two churches and two ministers; not a school, not a single teacher; now ten ministers, eight churches, eleven schools, fifteen teachers, eight hundred day and nine hundred Sunday school scholars, and fifty-five teachers. In New Mexico, now, fourteen schools and eighteen teachers. In Alaska, two schools and two teachers.

1880. (Page 31.)

The second class of laborers comprises the teachers who are employed to conduct schools among the New Mexicans, Mormons, and Indians. Of these 39 have been in commission during the past year in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Idaho, and Alaska, but chiefly in Utah and New Mexico. The Annual Reports call special attention to the fact that the Board has been greatly assisted in these fields by the "Woman's Executive Committee for Home Missions," the "New York Ladies' Board of Home and Foreign Missions," the "Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of Brooklyn," and the "Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the Southwest." These societies have assumed the Department of Schools among the "Exceptional Populations," the Spanish-speaking Roman Catholic populations in New Mexico and Southern Colorado, the Mormons in Utah and Idaho, and the Indians in all parts of the country.

1881. (Page 531.)

Schools and Woman's Work. In reference to the educational work connected with Home Missions - supporting schools among the Romanists in New Mexico, among the Indians and the Mormons - the notable aid furnished to the Board by the various Women's Home Missionary Societies, must be thankfully acknowledged. There are five of these bodies auxiliary to the Board, engaging the consecrated benevolence, time and energy of a multitude of our most devoted and able Presbyterian women. Their plans of work are simple and effective.

The "Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions" is the largest, although the most recently organized of these, and especially addresses itself to Educational Work on Home Mission territory.

1882. (Page 39.)

The Assembly hereby reiterates its former recommendations, that the several Synods appoint Ladies' Synodical Committees to co-operate with the Woman's Executive Committee, in more thoroughly organizing the work in the Presbyteries and churches, and that thus this most important work may be more efficiently done.

1883. (Page 60.)

We most heartily endorse the work of the Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions, and earnestly recommend and strongly urge the Presbyteries and Synods, that have not already appointed Committees of women for Home Missionary work, to appoint such Committees at their next meeting; and we also urge upon all such Christian women the duty of co-operating with and sustaining this great work.

In view of the pressing needs of Alaska, where our missions have been singularly successful, we recommend that the General Assembly appoint a Committee of five persons, who shall wait upon the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Interior, asking of the Government, through them, the establishment of civil government among these people of Alaska, and pressing upon them the necessity of establishing industrial schools in that territory. And we further recommend that the Secretaries of the Board of Home Missions be members of this Committee, ex-officio, in addition to the five above mentioned.

1884. (Page 64.)

RESOLVED, 1. That this Assembly recommends the Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions to permit such societies, under its care, as may desire to do so, to contribute according to their pleasure to the cause of the Freedmen, and send the results to the Woman's Executive Committee, to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Board of Home Missions for Freedmen.

1885. (Page 762.)

(From Report of the Board of Home Missions.)

During the eight years of its existence, the relation of the Woman's Executive Committee to the Board of Home Missions has been that of mutual confidence and uninterrupted harmony. After considering the applications for teachers or buildings, and deciding on what should be undertaken, the Executive Committee presents its decision to the Board for its approval or rejection. The Board, on the other hand, after considering the needs of the field and ascertaining the amount of money in the treasury, returns the cases with its opinion to the Woman's Executive Committee. The Board has never forced its judgment on the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee has never insisted on taking up a work against the clear judgment of the Board. There has not been a case over which the least disagreement has arisen. In this way, the Church enjoys the benefit of the noble impulses and best judgment of a dozen wise and practical women, and of the long experience and business knowledge of the Board of Home Missions in the prosecution of the school work.

1886. (Page 762.)

It is now discovered that within the mountain districts of the States of North Carolina, Southwest Virginia, Southern and Eastern Kentucky, and Eastern Tennessee, there is a white population of about two million, with a sprinkling of colored people. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx The imperative need of these people are schools and school teachers. They are beginning to realize their condition and are calling for help. Their history and their condition are sufficient to warrant an earnest effort in their behalf. Two Overtures on this subject have been referred to this Committee - one from the Presbytery of Louisville and one from Union Presbytery. These Overtures ask for help in teaching the white people of the South. As this matter is in the line of work which the Woman's Executive Committee is doing, the Committee would recommend that it be referred to them for such action as they consider wise, earnestly commending it to their favorable notice. (Page 42.)

The Woman's Executive Committee has in charge almost all the mission school work of our Church among the Mormons, Indians, Mexicans, Freedmen and Southern Whites. They are sustaining 110 schools and 221 teachers. The work among the Freedmen and Southern Whites is already assuming such importance, that the Executive Committee need all the assistance possible in the way of scholarships, salaries for teachers and special contributions for suitable school houses.

1887. (Page 72)

We highly recommend the efficiency and thoroughness with which the Woman's Executive Committee, under the Board, has organized the sympathy and effort of the women, the children and the Sabbath schools of our Church.

We believe the largeness and complexity of the school work may call for the appointment of a special superintendent of that department, who can unify the system and preach as occasion may desire. We refer this subject to the Board for special consideration.

1888. (Page 66.)

3. RESOLVED, That the work of the Woman's Executive Committee, of the many thousands of Christian women whom they represent, as embodied in their report to the Board of Home Missions, presents to our view a splendid example of mingled enthusiasm and sound judgment, and especially of Christian consecration and constancy, bearing their legitimate fruits in a form of service which has already become absolutely indispensable to the continuous development of our Home Missionary work, and whose further worth and results in the century to come it is hardly possible for us even now to imagine.

4. RESOLVED, That in accordance with action already taken by this Assembly, the cases of missionary teachers who have been employed by the Executive Committee for a definite period, and have become disabled in its service, be and are hereby commended to the careful consideration of the Board of Relief.

1889.

(Page 45.)

So far as our Church is concerned, there is no systematic effort to evangelize the foreigner in our land. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx We only call the attention to the absolute need of some systematic effort by which the Board of Home Missions can be enabled to help more effectively the advancement of this work.

1890.

(Page 61.)

A prosperous phase of the Board's work in the South is the hopeful growth of the schools of the Woman's Executive Committee. They have been established in Asheville, North Carolina, Elizabethton and New Market, in Tennessee, and at numerous other points in the destitute mountain regions of the Central South, and they are proving a great blessing to the localities, besides laying the foundations for future churches. Your Committee cordially recommends the mountain school work of the Board to this Assembly, with the hope that enlarged effort may meet with still greater results.

1891.

(Page 61.)

A most gratifying part of the year's work is found in the report of the Woman's Executive Committee. If this report were read in every church it would serve to stimulate activity in this cause. When we consider that the women of our church contribute, independently, nearly if not quite as much as the churches themselves, we realize what might be accomplished if something of their wisdom and zeal were shared by their brothers in the Lord. It would seem that in this, as in every other great cause of righteousness, the women are the God-appointed leaders. Whether it is natural intuition or divine inspiration, they seem to plan more wisely and work more efficiently.

Your Committee offer the following resolutions:

1. That the Assembly reaffirms its grateful recognition of the great service rendered by the Woman's Executive Committee, and recommends to all pastors and sessions the duty of fostering this work in their churches.

1892.

(Pages 82 & 83)

Your Committee would make the following recommendations for adoption by this Assembly:

1.————————

2. That the Assembly thankfully acknowledges the continued fidelity and increasing usefulness of the Woman's Executive Committee, and urges all pastors and sessions to foster this work among the ladies and children of their churches.

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5. That, in accordance with the recommendation of the last three Assemblies, all Sabbath schools be urged to make an annual contribution to the school work under the care of the Woman's Executive Committee, and that, so far as convenient, their offerings for this purpose be received on the Sabbath before Thanksgiving.

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13. That the Board and the Woman's Executive Committee be requested to confer as to whether the time has come when a larger proportion of their total funds should be used in organizing and maintaining churches, and a smaller proportion in the support of schools among our "exceptional populations."

1893.

(Page 115.)

We would further recommend our Board of Home Missions for its action in declining to receive any further appropriations from the National Government for day schools and boarding schools, and after this year for the support of its mission work among the Indians, and rejoice that our Church through them has taken the initiative in this action.

(Page 129.)

In answer to the Overture from the Presbytery of Chicago, in regard to the enlargement of the scope of the work of the Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions, so as to include the educational work among the exceptional populations of large cities, and also the Overture from the Presbytery of Lehigh, asking for the extension of the work of the Woman's Executive Committee so as to include all departments of Home Mission work, we recommend that, in view of the delicate and complicated nature of the questions involved, this matter be referred to the Board to act as in their judgment they may deem best.

Our Committee would further report that a copy of the Annual Report of the Woman's Executive Committee on Home Missions has been placed in their hands.

It is full of encouragement and hope. ---------- The Home Mission Monthly attained the largest subscription list in its history the last year. The Committee, through its publication department, has distributed 177,496 leaflets, giving information on the subject of Home Missions. It also reports that it has established strategic outposts among the exceptional populations of our land.

In response to the recommendations of the Assembly, and the counsel of the Board of Home Missions, the Committee has assumed the support of several evangelists in the field where the school work has opened the way for them. Your Committee has already commended the zeal and efficiency of the Woman's Executive Committee, and now again emphasizes their helpfulness and valuable services in the Home Mission work.

1894.

(Page 131.)

Among the special features of the Board's work we are glad to emphasize the splendid devotion and success of the Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions. -------- Their 123 schools are widely scattered among the exceptional populations of our country. This school work should be understood to be a department of Home Missions and to be under the control of the Board. Its value is shown by the fact that during the sixteen years of its existence not less than 85 churches have grown either directly or indirectly out of it.

(Page 138.)

RESOLVED, That the Assembly recognize the ever increasing usefulness and efficiency of the Woman's Executive Committee, particularly in advancing Home Missionary interests among the children and youth of our Church, and that the Assembly recommend that both the Young People's societies and the Sabbath schools make an annual contribution to the educational work of the Board.

1895. (Page 45)

Your committee would respectfully make the following recommendations:

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9. That we recommend to the Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions the work among the people of foreign tongues in the great cities, the mining regions of Pennsylvania and the West

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11. That this Assembly would reaffirm the hearty commendations which former Assemblies have bestowed upon the Woman's Executive Committee. We recognize its ever increasing usefulness in promoting Home Missionary interests among the children and youth of our Church. We congratulate them on the noble work they have done "in troublesome times", and bid them God-speed.

(Page 103)

In answer to Overture No. 199, from the Woman's Executive Committee, it is recommended that the popular meeting under the auspices of the said Executive Committee, to be addressed by Synodical missionaries and other speakers, shall be held each year on the first Sabbath afternoon of the meeting of the General Assembly.

(Page 104)

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2. That this General Assembly authorise the Board of Home Missions, through the Woman's Executive Committee, at their discretion, to commission women other than teachers to do missionary work in the homes of the mountain people of the South, and wherever similar work is demanded.

1896. (Page 50)

Our report would not be complete without hearty recognition of the noble auxiliary work of the Woman's Executive Committee. The systematic organization of woman's work, and the energy with which it has been prosecuted, have added largely to the results of our church work for the year. Their financial, educational and evangelistic helpfulness in this great work of the Church has not only buttressed the work of the Home Board, but greatly broadened and enlarged it.

1897. (Page 38)

(From Committee on Bills and Overtures).

Overture No. 23 from the Presbytery of Kingston as to the reception by the Church of public money for school work among the Mountain Whites, such work to be declared to be "exceptional work." It is recommended that the prayer of the Overture be not granted in the form requested, but that the Boards be authorized to co-operate in these localities with the local authorities in the establishment and maintenance of schools. Adopted.

1898. (Page 234)

(Report of the Board of Home Missions)

This year has witnessed the change of the title of the "Woman's Executive Committee", to the briefer and more definite name of "The Woman's Board."

It is a department of the general work of the Board. It has a separate treasury, the funds of which are gathered by the women and children of the Church and administered by the Assembly's Board. These funds are applied to the special work of evangelisation which the Board could not otherwise prosecute.

Its fundamental work is that of education among what are called the "exceptional populations."

——————— More than seventy churches have already been established as the direct result of the school work. It is therefore a misconception to think of this part of our Home Mission service as in any sense secular. The Bible is a daily text book and Christian influence is inwrought with the entire work.

Furthermore, the Woman's Board accepts the responsibility to which the advance of its work leads by supporting pastors and evangelists when the school rises into a mission church. It raises money for the buildings for its own schools and teachers' homes, chapels and manses. Property to the amount of $750,000 has thus accrued to the Presbyterian Church and is held by the Board in trust for the Woman's Board, or has been turned over to the several Presbyteries covering the bounds of the field. The last General Assembly recommended the enlargement of the evangelistic work of the Board. It ——————— proposes in the coming year to care for all the Alaskan work.

1899. (Page 213)

(From Report of the Board of Home Missions)

When, as the result of the war, Porto Rico became a part of the Union, it was evident that our duty would sooner or later call us to enter that field. ————— In the meantime men and money began to be offered for this service. In many ways God's providence spoke to us. In February the Board sent two Commissioners to that island to investigate the religious conditions and opportunities. ————Their report on their return stirred the entire church. ————At a meeting of the Board on March 28th it was resolved that if funds should be specially provided we would enter Porto Rico with a proclamation of the gospel and with such agencies as time should disclose the wisdom of employing.

(Page 59)

(From Report of Standing Committee on Home Missions)

Your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:-

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4. That the Assembly rejoices in the splendid work done by the Woman's Board of Home Missions and urges all pastors and churches to encourage these women who labor with us in the Lord.

5. That on the Sabbath preceding Thanksgiving Day our Sabbath schools be requested to make an offering for the mission school work under the care of the Woman's Board.

1900. (Page 75)

We especially commend the Woman's Board of Home Missions for the efficient service which it has rendered to the general cause by means of the very able monthly magazine, by the weekly meetings held under its organizing auspices in various cities, and by its auxiliary societies, Synodical, Presbyterial and Congregational, with their annual, monthly and weekly gatherings for prayer, conference, instruction and work, for the relief in various ways of Home Missionaries upon the field. The old direction of the apostles: "Help these women," has been changed in practical experience into a statement of a mighty fact: "These women help." That the women have helped should be still further emphasized by the statement that this Board has not only most efficiently cared for the school work entrusted to and devolved upon it by the General Assembly, but has also provided in part for the carrying on of the evangelistic work among our exceptional populations, up to which their educational work led. For this the Board of Home Missions desires to make grateful acknowledgement through the medium of this report.

----------Experience has proved that secular education is no remedy for Mormonism. We therefore rejoice in the great work which has been accomplished by our Woman's Board of Home Missions in furnishing Christian education in Utah. We rejoice in the progress which has been made during the last three years by Sheldon Jackson College in Salt Lake City, an institution especially designed to meet the peculiar conditions of that inter-mountain region, to counteract the anti-American influences of Mormonism, and to bring that rich and beautiful section of our country into harmony with our Christian civilization.

1902. (Page 249)

(From the Report of Home Missions)

The policy of the Woman's Board has been to enter the field to stay.----------to search out localities where the greatest need exists, and where the other agencies of the Church at large are the least liable to succeed, and there plant the school or establish the mission. This method appeals to all classes, and when the time comes, as it always does sooner or later, for the gathering together of the converts into little churches, the work is put on a solid basis. This accounts for the fact that three Presbyteries and almost an entire Synod have grown out of this work.----------

As appears from the Treasurer's statement elsewhere, there has been decided advance in receipts. A large part of this came to the Woman's Board, and was expended largely in permanent improvements on mission property in various parts of the country.

(From Report of Standing Committee on Home Missions)

(Page 60)

We offer the following general resolutions:

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3. That the General Assembly once more commends the work of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, and urges all the women of all our churches to give their love and care to this great agency for the evangelization of the whole land.

1903. (Page 75)

The work of the Woman's Board deserves special mention. The year has been one of growth in all lines of its work. In the school 759 persons have been led to give themselves to Christ, and will go out into the world to wield an influence for righteousness which no figures can measure. Two churches have been organised, making a total of 98 church organizations resulting from the Woman's Board, "an average of one every three months since the establishment of the first mission school, twenty-four years ago."

The amount raised by the Woman's Board during the last year was $444,000, the largest in its history. With its complete organization and the loyal enthusiasm of the Woman's societies all over the country even larger things may be expected in the near future. Your Committee would recommend the adoption of the following:

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7. That we record with gratitude the successful work of the Woman's Board, and heartily and earnestly commend it to the interest and prayers and labors and gifts of all the women in our churches.

1904. (Page 293)

(From the Report of Home Missions)

The strong arm of our service has closed a prosperous year which has been marked by two principal events:

First, the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of the Woman's Board by the contribution of $40,000 (to be increased to $50,000) for the building and endowing of a boys' school at Santa Fe, N. M. This great offering has been given as a grateful tribute to the long and signal service of the President of the Woman's Board, Mrs. Darwin R. James.

The second notable event of the year was the election and induction into office of the new Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Ella Alexander Boole, the successor of the lamented Mrs. F. H. Pierson. She began her responsible duties October 15, 1905, and the Board wishes for her a happy and useful career in the great work to which she is called.

(From Report of Standing Committee on Home Missions)

(Page 80)

Your Committee is deeply impressed with the faithful and efficient labors of the noble women of our church, and calls special attention to the work of the Woman's Board, the central organization of the 130,000 members of auxiliary societies. This Board is now celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of its organization, and signalizes this event by the contribution of $40,000 (to be increased to $50,000) for the building and endowing of a boys' school at Santa Fe, New Mexico. This great offering has been given as a grateful tribute to the services of the honored President of the Woman's Board, Mrs. Darwin R. James.

(Page 83)

Resolved 8. That the General Assembly expresses its hearty appreciation of the efficient services of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, and extends to its honored President, Mrs. Darwin R. James, its grateful tribute for her long and faithful services as President of the Woman's Board.

1905.

(Page 300)

(From Report of Home Missions)

The Woman's Board continues its forward march. The Board appreciates to the full this splendid right arm of its service, and takes occasion once more to mention with gratitude the organization and enthusiasm of the women of our Church and their loyalty and devotion to the evangelization of our country.

The Advisory Committee, composed of women residing in New York and vicinity, renders most valuable service to the Woman's Board. The attendance of the members of this committee at the regular Tuesday meetings, their careful consideration of the important matters presented at these meetings, their willing service upon important committees, their correspondence with and knowledge of the workers upon the field, and their devotion to the interests of the Woman's Board cannot be overestimated and deserve our thanks. There are now eighty members upon this Advisory Committee, representing the leading churches of our denomination. The work of the year is marked by the creation of a new standing committee, that on Work Among Foreign-speaking People.

The services of our beloved and honored President, Mrs. Darwin R. James, who for twenty years has given her time, money and talents without stint to the work of the Woman's Board, are almost without parallel. Her clearness of vision, her broad grasp of public questions, her knowledge of the whole mission field, her great mother-heart, which reaches out to every teacher and the very youngest pupil in our schools, have been a large factor in perfecting the organization of the women of the Presbyterian Church and establishing their work for Home Missions on a permanent basis.

(From Report of Standing Committee on Home Missions)

(Page 92)

Your Committee has reviewed with sincere pleasure and gratitude to the great Head of the Church the splendid work of the women of our denomination in behalf of the schools under their supervision. The enthusiasm and prayerfulness with which that work has been maintained and developed is well calculated to bring joy to the heart of our entire Church.

They have planted the mission field with Christian schools. In Alaska, in Utah, in New Mexico, among the mountain population of the South, in Cuba and Porto Rico they have carried forward this blessed work. To the Freedmen's schools these Christian women have afforded aid to the munificent amount of $74,000. They have also begun work during the past year among the foreign populations of our country.

In the schools supported by the Woman's Board there have been 903 hopeful conversions during the past year. There has been a gain of 1535 scholars in the Sunday schools, and a gain of thirty-one Sunday schools over the preceding year. The total receipts of the Woman's Board for the year just closed reached the splendid sum of $474,839 - being an advance of $15,400 over the year 1903-4. Having discharged all their own financial obligations and then given $74,000 for work among the Freedmen, there still remained the sum of $6,806 to be covered into the treasury of the Home Board for its evangelistic work. The principle of self-support is properly emphasized in all the schools under the care of the Woman's Board. As a result the tuition fees, which in 1894 aggregated $19,000, have now increased to the comfortable sum of $63,000. The Normal and Collegiate school at Asheville, North Carolina, whose annual current expenses are $22,000, now receives $20,000 annually from its pupils.

Mention must be made of the efficient services of the Advisory Committee of eighty ladies, who meet every week regularly for consultation. As for the devoted, tender and wise leadership of the Board's beloved and honored President, Mrs. Darwin R. James, the whole church recognizes it with deepest gratitude.

(Page 93)

5. The General Assembly once more expresses its hearty appreciation of the splendid services rendered to the Church by the Woman's Board of Home Missions. The magnificent sum of almost half a million dollars laid as an offering on the altar of God the past year by these daughters of the King tells its own eloquent story. Our whole church through this General Assembly extends to Mrs. Darwin R. James, the honored President of the Woman's Board, its grateful tribute for her long and faithful service.

1906.

(Pages 320-21)

(From the Report of Home Missions)

The Woman's Board is to be congratulated on the most successful year of its history. By reason of its splendid organization it has passed the half million mark in its contributions, and its work in every part of its great field is steadily developing. The Annual Report has been received and approved by the Board, and is herewith presented as follows:

Grateful to God for His guidance and blessing during the past year and for the loyal support of the women of the Presbyterian Church, the Woman's Board submits its Twenty-seventh Annual Report.

Advance has been the watchword of 1905 and 1906. The momentum of twenty-six years of continuous service has been felt in the strengthening of the organizations which center in the Woman's Board.

The total receipts for all purposes are $505,830.97, an increase över last year of $31,697.18, $11,000 of which is an annuity gift and not available for current work. Of the total amount $70,210.93 has been transmitted to the Board for Freedmen.

The active co-operation of synodical officers, and through them of presbyterial and auxiliary societies, in the plans for advance adopted at the last Annual Meeting have made possible this splendid increase in gifts.

THE OFFICE.

We are called upon to note several changes in the personnel of the office force. Dr. George F. McAfee, who served efficiently as Superintendent of School Work for ten years, tendered his resignation in September on account of ill health.

All regretted his going, for by his gentlemanly bearing, his uniform courtesy and his Christian character he had greatly endeared himself to the workers on the field and in the office. We follow Dr. and Mrs. McAfee with our prayers and good wishes.

To meet the need caused by the retirement of Dr. McAfee, Mrs. John F. Pingry was elected School Secretary.

The Rev. R. M. Craig entered upon his duties as Assistant Superintendent of Schools in June, and since September he has been on the field or in the office, wherever needed, and we are glad to report his election to the office of Superintendent of School Work of the Woman's Board. He enters upon his duties after years of experience as a Home Missions, and as Synodical Missionary for New Mexico he was in close touch with the school work. We predict for his administration a conscientiousness in the performance of his duties, enthusiasm that will win others for the cause, and faithfulness to his trust.

(From Report of Standing Committee on Home Missions)

(Pages 74-75)

Your Committee on Home Missions would respectfully report that they have carefully examined the Annual Report and the official record of the Board, also the Annual Report of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, and the Report of the Young People's Department. Wr have also tried to catch a vision of the wide field in which our Church is operating through this agency, and to measure the magnitude of the work undertaken.

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Much of the progress made is due to the fact that the Woman's Board has had the most successful year in its history. By reason of its splendid organization, and of the many deeply interested supporters back of it, it has passed the half million mark in its receipts, and has made steady development in every part of the great field under its care.

During the year the Board has been represented by 555 teachers in 185 mission schools and 1,269 missionaries who have ministered to 1,465 churches, and as a result 87 churches and 204 Sabbath schools have been organized, 947 conversions have been reported from our mission schools.

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11. That we congratulate the Woman's Board upon the marked success with which it has carried forward its work during the past year, and recognizes the large devotion of Presbyterian women to Presbyterian Home Missions, which has enabled this Board to pass the half million dollar mark in its receipts.

1907

(From the Report of Home Missions)

(Pages 336-337)

Mrs. Darwin R. James, the President of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, has spent the year in travel around the world; and although the work has been cared for by the five Vice-Presidents residing in New York City and vicinity, who have presided in turn at the meetings, we have greatly missed her strong leadership and broad-minded personality.

The Advisory Committee has been strengthened by the addition of several representative women, and it has faithfully attended to the duties of administration.

The appointment of Miss Edith Hughes as Field Secretary of the Southwest was made at the last Annual Meeting. Her territory includes Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, Tennessee and Kentucky.

All our Field Secretaries have been in the field constantly, educating, stimulating and instructing societies.

The Rev. D. E. Finks has continued throughout the year to educate the churches through his stereopticon views.

Our organization will be strengthened by the reunion of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church with ours. At a conference with their representatives, January 15 and 16, 1907, the following plan of union was agreed upon:

1. That the Woman's Board of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church continue to solicit and receive funds, as at present, until July 1, 1907.

2. That the Cumberland Presbyterian Church transfer to the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., for the Woman's Board of Home Missions, the work at Barnard, N.C., with the understanding that the schools will be continued upon practically the same lines as heretofore.

3. That the work among the Choctaw Indians, as now conducted by the Woman's Board of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, be commended to the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

4. That as all auxiliary women's missionary societies in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church are Home and Foreign Missionary Societies, it is recommended that after July 1, 1907, donors in these societies designate the proportion of their gifts for Home and Foreign Mission work, and that in the event the donors do not so designate, the auxiliary societies shall by vote determine the amount.

5. That in the Presbyteries and Synods where the work of the Cumberland Presbyterian and the Presbyterian Church U. S. A. is organized into Presbyterial and Synodical Societies, the next meeting of the Presbyterials and Synodicals shall be joint meetings for the purpose of re-organization, the time and place to be agreed upon by conference of the officers of the two, unless there are separate organizations for Home and Foreign work, and that a Secretary and Treasurer for each be elected. In Presbyteries and Synods where there is the organization of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church only, no changes need be recommended, except that the policy of the Secretaries and Treasurers of Home and Foreign work be adopted.

A comparative analysis of the total receipts of last year and this shows that the receipts for current work are $3,352.65 less than last year; that the women's societies have maintained the standard of last year and advanced $14,682.17; that there is a shortage on legacies (always a variable quality) of $10,000; that the receipts from churches show a decrease of $679.75. This year, for the first time, the gifts from Sunday schools to the Woman's Board and the Assembly's Board have been divided equally, so that we have transferred to the Board $3,374.92 from the Sunday schools, and the amount transferred from the Christian Endeavor and Young People's Societies was $10,774.20, making a total of $14,192.12.

(From Report of Standing Committee on Home Missions.)

The Woman's Board pages of this report are radiant. Again they report contributions of more than half a million dollars. In the 191 schools under their care 10,354 pupils have received instruction from 458 missionary teachers, and 679 have made profession of their faith in Christ. Their mission study classes organized, their Literature Department constantly enlarging, the aid they render to the Home Missionaries, the salaries of some of whom they pay, and others whom they assist by generous boxes of clothing - all these things, and more, too, might be mentioned to show their unwearied devotion to the cause of Home Missions.

(Page 93.)

4. That the Woman's Board be commended again for the zeal, wisdom, consecration and business ability they have shown in again raising more than half a million dollars and expending it in their most important work.

5. That the Plan of Union between the Woman's Board and the Woman's Board of the Cumberland Church be commended.

1908.

(From the Report of Home Missions.)

(Page 329.)

The following report from the Woman's Board has been received and approved:

The Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Woman's Board of Home Missions is the record of faithful service on the part of Presbyterian women at home and on the field.

The union with the Cumberland Woman's Board has been perfected and we report three new synodical societies - Alabama, Arkansas and Mississippi - while fourteen Synods have been strengthened by the addition of whole Presbyteries and of many auxiliaries tested by years of service in the Cumberland Woman's Board.

The gifts for this year from these societies, new to us, can hardly be taken as the criterion of what we may expect another year, inasmuch as they continued to send their money for the first quarter through the Cumberland Woman's Board, which was organized for both Home and Foreign Missions was not understood by all. Increased gifts will follow increased knowledge of the work being done on the field.

Not in gifts alone did we receive help from the union of the churches, but from the ranks of the Cumberland Presbyterian membership there were furnished not only all the teachers for Bell Institute and Mt. Neta and Hopewell, but three other workers for the mission field.

(From Report of Standing Committee on Home Missions.)

(Page 97)

The Woman's Board of Home Missions, in close fellowship with the parent Board, has concluded a fruitful year. Its offerings have been increased, its corps of field workers enlarged, and its adjustment of relations with the women of the former Cumberland Church highly satisfactory. Increased interest in study classes seeking information and duty concerning the urgent needs of our city and alien population, and the adoption of a new society for mission work and study among young people, called the Westminister Guild, together with much new and interesting literature, indicate the steps by which the Woman's Board has found progress. The Woman's Board is to be commended for its resolution to devote, beginning April, 1909, 5 per cent. of receipts from its auxiliaries to the work of evangelization among our foreigners. In view of the crying need for a Gospel ministry among these people and more evangelization throughout the land, this step meets with the hearty approval of the Committee.

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3. That the efficiency and progress of the Woman's Board, and their resolution to enlarge their work by participating in the evangelization of our alien people, be noted with joy and heartily commended.

1909.

(From the Report of Home Missions.)

(Pages 333-334)

For more than twenty-five years the dominating force in all this department has been our beloved President, Mrs. Darwin R. James. Filled with the spirit of true patriotism, she has led Presbyterian women in their Home Mission work, with a deep conviction that the specific work assigned these women was vital to the evangelization of America. Her sympathies have been broad, her conviction deep, her outlook far-reaching. She withdrew from active work in the middle of the year, because she felt she could no longer bear the heavy burden of leadership. We miss her, but rejoice that she has given so many years of service for the Master, and recognize that the women of the Church are so thoroughly organized in the thirty-three Synodical Societies that the responsibility for the organization can now be shared.

Mrs. Fred Smith Bennett, who had served the Board as Young People's Secretary, and later as Vice-President from New Jersey, was appointed Acting President.

The Woman's Board received from all sources, exclusive of $75,076.63 collected for an remitted to the Freedmen's Board, and inclusive of amounts contributed for Permanent and Annuity Funds,-etc. $465,136.14.

Its receipts available for current work were $427,036.99; while on the other hand its expenses, inclusive of $18,913.65 paid missionaries of the Board of Home Missions, were $460,206.38, leaving a deficit on current work of $33,169.39. While there was a slight advance in receipts over last year, they did not keep pace with the expenditures on the field.

The deficity of $33,169.39 is assumed by the Woman's Board, and special effort will be made to secure funds to cancel the debt before July, 1909.

(From Report of Standing Committee on Home Missions.)

(Page 57)

The Standing Committee on Home Missions respectfully reports that it has examined the One Hundred and Seventh Annual Report of the Board of Home Missions; and also the Thirtieth Annual Report of the Woman's Board.

IN both these reports, before the story is begun of the great work of the year, mention is made of the laying down of their work by some of the faithful workers. Rev. Donald McDonald, D. D., for many years Synodical Missionary of Kentucky; xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx have ceased from their labors and entered into rest during the past year.

Mrs. Darwin R. James, for twenty-five years President of the Woman's Board, has been compelled to resign by serious illness.

Though their names do not appear in these reports, the General Assembly could not meet in Colorado without recalling the name of Dr. Sheldon Jackson, the great Home Missionary, and of Dr. Kirkwood, the Synodical Missionary of this State for years, both of whom have died during this year.

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5. That the work of the Woman's Board be recognized and heartily approved, and that we express our congratulations at the immediate large success which hasaattended their efforts to raise the deficit incurred the past year.

1910.

(From Report of Board of Home Missions.)

(Page 363-364)

THE WOMAN'S BOARD. The thirty-first Annual Report of the Woman's Board shows many changes in the personnel of its leaders.

Mrs. Darwin R. James, who had already withdrawn from active leadership, was made Honorary President, and Mrs. Fred Smith Bennett, who had been Acting President, was made President of the Board at its Annual Meeting.

The Rev. Robert M. Craig, on account of ill health, retired from the Superintendency of the School Work, and his place was filled by David R. Boyd, Ph. D., the organizer of the State University of Oklahoma, and for sixteen years its successful President.

Mrs. Ella Alexander Boole, for six years the Secretary of the Woman's Board, resigned to accept work in connection with the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and Miss Julia Fraser was elected her successor.

Miss S. F. Lincoln, twenty years the beloved Treasurer, resigned from official service, and Miss V. May White was elected Acting Treasurer.

Three of the most honored and efficient members of the Woman's Board died during the year - Mrs. W. P. Allen, of New York; Mrs. William S. Ladd, of Oregon; and Mrs. A. H. Vedder, of Wisconsin.

Changes in Synodical Presidents are as follows: Illinois Synodical, Mrs. Charles W. Robinson is succeeded by Mrs. A. G. Beebe; Indiana, Mrs. F. F. McCrea, by Mrs. Herbert Campbell; Utah, Mrs. R. G. McNiece, by Mrs. A. G. Gillilan; Oregon, Washington and Idaho (which administer both Home and Foreign Missions under one Board organization), Mrs. W. S. Ladd, succeeded by Mrs. E. P. Mossman.

A new Synodical Society, organized during the year, was that of New Mexico; President, Miss C. A. Gilchrist.

Changes in the personnel of the Field Secretaries have also taken place - Miss Fraser from the Pacific Coast coming to the Secretaryship of the Woman's Board, and Miss Edith Highes, accepting an important position in Park College, retiring as Field Secretary for the Southwest. The new Field Secretaries are Miss Lydia A. Hays, Miss Abby H. J. Upham and Miss Helen Keil.

The organization of the Woman's Board is completed through thirty-three synod and in many presbyteries.

The box work has been continued - two hundred sixty-eight societies having prepared boxes for schools, and three hundred fifty-six boxes having gone to ministers' families.

The Home Mission Monthly closes the most successful year in its history, which means the more as each year has chronicled advance.

Over Sea and Land, the little Home and Foreign Mission magazine for children, has been compelled to part with its Editor, Mrs. A. W. Dimock, who has had charge of it for six years. Its office has been transferred from Philadelphia to 156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

The Interdenominational Council of Women for Home Missions held its first annual meeting in New York last December. It is composed of nine representative women from each of the affiliated National Women's Boards of Home Missions. The members from our Church are Mesdames F. S. Bennett, D. E. Waid, H. Lindeman and the Misses V. M. White and Julia Fraser, New York: Mesdames M. V. Richards, Synod of Baltimore; Herbert Campbell, Synod of Indiana; Paul Raymond, Synod of Colorado; R. B. Goddard, Synod of California.

Money for the Woman's Department of the Freedmen's Board since 1884 has been received through the regular channels of our Woman's Board, and transmitted to the treasury in Pittsburg. The Freedmen are also given one entire issue of The Home Mission Monthly.

The field work of our Woman's Board comprises 161 schools and twenty-one evangelistic stations, extending from Point Barrow on the north, and Saint Lawrence Island, on the west, to San Juan, Porto Rico, on the south, among different races with different languages and divers customs/

Committee on Bills and Overtures.

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A communication from the Woman's Board of Home Missions was referred to the Executive Commission.

From Report of Standing Committee on Home Missipns.

(Page 121)

A large share of the success that has attended the work of our Board during the past year, should be credited to the faithful women that have given to it extended time and thought and labor, and who have contributed the magnificent sum of $602,000 for evangelization and education. This, however, includes considerable sums raised for school buildings, as well as $33,000 to cancel the debt of the previous year. This splendid showing is a tribute to their fine organization and unfailing devotion. Their work is again commended to the attention and interest of the entire Church.

Resolved, 8. That on the Sunday nearest Thanksgiving Day, and on the Sunday nearest to Washington's Birthday, the Sunday-schools make their offerings for the Board of Home Missions.

The paper approved by the Joint Conference of the officers of the Home Board and the Woman's Board, and submitted to these Boards and approved by the General Assembly, so far as its recommendations are concerned, is as follows:-

WHEREAS, There is confusion attending the prosecution of missionary interests in Young People's Societies and Sunday-schools, owing to the several policies followed by the Mission Boards of the Church, it is recommended:

First: That the Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Board of Home Missions adopt the policy followed by the Board of Foreign Missions and the six Women's Boards of Foreign Missions, whereby the Board of Home Missions shall become responsible for the education of Sunday-schools along the line of Home Missions, and shall solicit and receive gifts from said Sunday-schools for the furtherance of its work as a Board, and the Woman's Board of Home Missions shall become responsible for the education of Young People's Societies--including Senior, Junior and Intermediate Christian Endeavor organizations--along the line of Home Missions, and shall solicit and receive gifts from said Young People's organizations for the furtherance of its work as a Board.

Second: That, whereas, it has been the custom to divide equally between the Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Board of Home Missions all gifts from Sunday-schools and Young People's Societies (where said societies have been composed of young men and women), and by such arrangement Sunday-schools and Young People's Societies have been under the care of a Joint Young People's Department, and a large interest worked up on the part of both Sunday-schools and Young People in the work of the Woman's Board of Home Missions and of the Board of Home Missions, it is recommended that

(1) Funds from Sunday-schools and Young People's Societies shall no longer be divided between the Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Board of Home Missions.

(2) Each Board shall work out the details of administration necessary for the fulfillment of its responsibility for the carrying out of the policy outlined in the first recommendation.

Third: That a joint preliminary announcement be prepared and sent to officials in Synods, Presbyteries, synodical and presbyterial societies.

Fourth: That, in view of the fact that large interest in scholarships under the Woman's Board has been aroused during the past years, whereby annual pledges to the extent of about $16,000 have been secured from Sunday-schools,

(1) A list of said scholarship pledges be given the Board of Home Missions in order that the new policy may be explained and an endeavor made to enlist the interest of said Sunday-schools in the work committed to the Board of Home Missions; and that the Woman's Board communicate likewise with the Sunday-schools in question, explaining the new policy and that they will be approached by the Board of Home Missions for a change of Home Mission objects:

(2) This recommendation be understood to cover present pledges only.

(3) Future requests from Sunday-schools for home mission objects be referred to the Board of Home Missions.

Fifth: That if, after careful explanation and solicitation on the part of the Board of Home Missions, a Sunday-school shall insist upon continuing its interest in a scholarship of several years' standing, it shall not be considered a breach of policy if the Woman's Board shall accept such scholarship money, it being conceded that any organization has the final right to act concerning the distribution of its gifts.

Sixth: That the facts contained in paragraphs fourth and fifth, relating to Sunday-schools, apply in like manner to Young People's Societies - i.e., organizations composed of boys and girls, and young men and women - with reference to the Woman's Board.

Seventh: That the Board of Home Missions ask the General Assembly for the offerings from Sunday-schools on Thanksgiving Sunday and the Sunday nearest Washington's Birthday.

Eighth: That the Board of Home Missions suggest to the Freedmen's Board that they fall in line with the Boards of Home and Foreign Missions in the matter of Sunday-school gifts.

Ninth: That these recommendations shall be considered as effective from April 1, 1915.

From Minutes of General Assembly 1916.

The Report of the Standing Committee on Home Missions was presented and was received and was adopted and is as follows:

Your Committee also had before it the thirty-seventh Annual Report of the Woman's Boatd of Home Missions. This Report is the first report of this Board as an incorporated body. It shows the history of its reorganization, the election of forty-five members, for which the approval of the Assembly is asked.

Great difficulties were overcome, and a wonderful broadness and unselfishness of spirit was manifested, in the laying aside of traditions and preferences by various Woman's Boards, in order to make effective the work of the Woman's Board of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. In spite of all the details of reorganization, the work accomplished was larger than in any year of its history. The Woman's Board received $422,665.67. There was an increase of income from every source. There was a decrease in none. The budget was carried through with a surplus of $10,500.63. This Board moved and equipped its offices, opened new books, unified its work throughout the bounds of the Church, appealed for $25,000 to complete the fund for the San Juan, Porto Rico, Hospital, and received $27,218.

They erected an Emergency Fund "for the purpose of assisting sick and disabled teachers and missionaries who have served the Board faithfully for a number of years, by granting them leave of absence for various periods of time. The payment of $1 by each woman's society has, to date, been sufficient to meet the needs of this fund."

With their incomparable organization, reaching to all the churches and enlisting such multitudes of praying women the Assembly will not only approve what they have done, but anticipate larger results in the year opening before us.

Overture No. 46, from the Presbytery of Porto Rico, requesting the dissolution of the Presbytery of Porto Rico, etc.
Recommend: Refer to Executive Commission with power to act, after full conference with the Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Board of Home Missions.

The following resolutions are presented:

1. That the Minutes of the Board of Home Missions and the Minutes of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, which were examined by your Committee and found neatly and correctly kept, be approved.

XVll. Woman's Board of Home Missions.

The General Assembly of 1915 gave power to the Executive Commission to take such additional steps as might be necessary in connection with the incorporation of the Board of Home Missions. It was found on inquiry to be necessary to secure an amendment to the Charter. We are glad to state that the amended Charter has been adopted by the legislature of the State of New York, and duly signed by the governor. The amendment made was by the addition to Section 3 of the Charter of the following words: "And the conduct, management, and administration of all the business and affairs of the said corporation shall at all times be expressly under, and subject to, the jurisdiction, supervision, and direction of said General Assembly."

The Woman's Board of Home Missions will report as a separate Board to the General Assembly and in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.